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ATOM ARMS GAINS DESPITE TEST BAN ACHIEVED BY U.S.

Jackson Tells of Advances Formerly Held Impossible Under Treaty Restrictions

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30—The Atomic Energy Commission was reported today to be making unexpectedly rapid progress in developing radically new atomic weapons in underground testing in Nevada.

The report was given by Senator Henry M. Jackson, Democrat of Washington, who is chairman of the Military Applications subcommittee of the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy.

In a Senate speech on implementation of United States "safeguards" under the limited test ban treaty of 1963, Mr. Jackson said that results were being obtained in underground tests "that were previously thought impossible under the treaty restrictions."

The treaty precludes all atomic tests except those conducted underground.

The Atomic Energy Commission, Mr. Jackson said, has been "somewhat handicapped" in the last year in its underground nuclear testing.

Labor Troubles Cited

It has been handicapped first, by labor difficulties at the national nuclear test site in Nevada from early July through early November and, second, by the lack of a suitable test site for detonation of high-yield explosions, the Senator said.

However, "in spite of these problems," he said, "a large number of underground tests were conducted and very significant advances made in the area of weapons technology development, new and radically different weapon design concepts, and in the science of peaceful uses for nuclear explosives."

Mr. Jackson disclosed that in the next 18 months an "accelerated underground test program" is planned, with a "relatively large number of tests" on new re-entry vehicles for intercontinental missiles, or missile guidance systems and on warheads for an anti-ballistic missile system.

The Senator alluded to the still secret development of an X-ray type warhead for an anti-ballistic missile by noting that increased emphasis would be placed on obtaining information about the "high altitude phenomenology" of atomic explosions.

One of the principal objectives in the underground testing is to develop a relatively large thermonuclear warhead that would destroy incoming missiles with tremendous bursts of X-rays.

The Jackson speech provided a tipoff to the changing thrust in the Joint Congressional Committee's interest in the future development of atomic weapons systems. Under Senator Jackson's direction, the committee has been conducting an inquiry into the anti-ballistic missile issue — an inquiry that the Administration had expected would lead to greater Congressional pressure to deploy a "heavy" defense system against the Soviet Union.

Accepts Argument

Senator Jackson, however, accepted the Administration's argument that at present it was technically impossible to deploy an effective defense against a large-scale attack, such as the Soviet Union would be capable of launching. Instead of deployment of such a system, he urged a "high priority" research and development program to attempt to develop an effective defense.

But where the Senator departed from Administration thinking was in urging deployment of a new generation of offensive missiles with larger, more sophisticated warheads.

Senator Jackson contended that the Soviet Union, in the buildup of both its offensive and defensive strength, was presenting "a serious challenge" to United States strategic superiority.

If the United States is to retain its strategic offensive capability, he said, "we will need another generation" of land-based intercontinental missiles with larger payloads and using "multiple independently-targetable re-entry vehicles," or missile warheads capable of hitting several different targets.

In addition, he said, "we will need another generation of nuclear submarines with more and larger missiles, also armed with multiple warheads."

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